Message Text

SECRET

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DRAFTED BY S/S:PTARNOFF:JLH APPROVED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY P - MR. NEWSOM

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TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

SECRETSTATE 101281 TOSEC 040166

EXDIS, FOR AMBASSADORS FROM THE ACTING SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP

SUBJECT: FOREIGN VISITORS

- 1. THE WHITE HOUSE HAS AGAIN EXPRESSED CONCERN TO US AT THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN VISITORS WHOM THE DEPARTMENT IS RECOMMENDING THAT THE PRESIDENT RECEIVE. THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE OF DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN OBLIGATIONS IS ALREADY VERY HEAVY FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR, AND WE ARE BEING ASKED TO DISCOURAGE REQUESTS BY FOREIGN LEADERS TO SEE THE PRESIDENT, EVEN FOR OFFICE MEETINGS, RATHER THAN FORWARDING THEM TO THE WHITE HOUSE FOR DETERMINATION. THE WHITE HOUSE IS PASSING A SIMILAR MESSAGE TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL.
- 2. WE HOLD PERIODIC MEETINGS WITH THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF AND NSC TO DISCUSS THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE OF FOREIGN VISITORS. IN PREPARATION FOR THESE MEETINGS, THE SECRET

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REGIONAL BUREAUS ARE CANVASSED SO THAT WE KNOW THEIR PRIORITIES AND YOURS. ALTHOUGH THE PRESIDENT WILL AGREE TO RECEIVE SOME FOREIGN LEADERS ON SHORT NOTICE, THE WHITE HOUSE WANTS OUR HELP IN STRICTLY LIMITING THOSE CALLERS WHO ARE NOT ON THE REGULARLY ESTABLISHED ADVANCE SCHEDULE.

3. THEREFORE, I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR NOT SHOWING ENCOURAGEMENT WHEN YOU ARE APPROACHED BY HIGH HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT. YOU SHOULD OF COURSE AGREE TO TRANSMIT THE REQUEST TO WASHINGTON (IF IT IS MAINTAINED), ALTHOUGH I WOULD URGE YOU TO POINT OUT TO LOCAL OFFICIALS, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, THAT THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE IS EXTREMELY HEAVY IN THE COMING MONTHS. IF YOU BELIEVE IT USEFUL, YOU MIGHT ADD THAT THE PRESIDENT'S POSITION IS UNUSUAL, IN THAT HE IS NOT ONLY THE CHIEF OF STATE BUT ALSO THE HEAD OF GOVERNMENT AND, IN ADDITION, HAS NUMEROUS DUTIES NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE LEADER OF A POLITICAL PARTY.

WHENEVER YOU TRANSMIT SUCH REQUESTS TO THE DEPARTMENT, I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR PERSONAL ASSESSMENT OF HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO THE FOREIGN POLICY INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES THAT THE PRESIDENT RECEIVE THE FOREIGN LEADER IN QUESTION. YOU ALSO MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER IN YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT WHETHER IT MIGHT BE IN OUR INTEREST TO PROPOSE THAT THE FOREIGN VISITOR SEE EITHER THE VICE PRESIDENT OR THE SECRETARY IF THE PRESIDENT IS UNAVAILABLE. YOU CAN BE ASSURED THAT WE WILL TREAT YOUR CANDID RECOMMENDATIONS WITH THE UTMOST DISCRETION AND THAT, IN CASES OF REFUSAL, YOU WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE DECISION WAS SECRET

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MADE IN WASHINGTON.

4. I AM RELYING ON YOU TO PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO SUCH REQUESTS. I AM ASKING YOUR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO DO THE SAME IN THE DEPARTMENT. CHRISTOPHER

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